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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**FORMER RED CROSS EMPLOYEE AND TWO OTHERS CHARGED
WITH STEALING IDENTITIES OF BLOOD DONORS**

PHILADELPHIA – United States Attorney Patrick L. Meehan, F.B.I. Special Agent-In-Charge Jack Eckenrode, and U.S. Postal Inspection Service Special Agent-In-Charge Ira Carle today announced the filing of an indictment¹ charging Harold J. McCoy, III, Danielle Baker, and Karynn R. Long, with the following: one count of conspiracy, under 18 U.S.C. § 371, one count of identity fraud, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1028, four counts of interstate transportation of counterfeited securities, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2314, five counts of bank fraud, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1344, and five counts of uttering and possessing counterfeited securities, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 513.

According to the indictment, the defendants engaged in an extensive identity fraud scheme in which they stole identities and used them to (1) obtain instant credit and financing to purchase merchandise; (2) produce and cash counterfeit checks; and (3) obtain bank loans. The defendants engaged in this scheme from approximately August 2002 through approximately April 2003 throughout the eastern United States, including the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

At the direction of Harold McCoy, Danielle Baker stole most of the identities used in the identity fraud scheme from her place of employment, the American Red Cross (“Red Cross”), in Philadelphia. The victims were individuals who had participated in corporate blood drives in Philadelphia. Baker stole names, dates of birth, social security numbers, addresses, telephone numbers, and places of employment from computer records of the Red Cross blood drives. McCoy and Baker targeted the victims based on their employment with companies who paid higher salaries, which made it easier to obtain credit and credit at higher levels in the victims’ names. McCoy also stole other identities, including the identities of inmates with whom he had been in federal prison.

Using the stolen identity information, McCoy, Long, and others working at McCoy’s direction, obtained official identification bearing the photograph of the identity thief and the identity information of the victim. McCoy and his cohorts then used those identification cards, along with the stolen identity information from over 40 victims, to fraudulently obtain approximately \$268,000 in cash and merchandise in more than 170 illegal transactions.

“You had people literally giving something of themselves to help others only to learn later that they wound up giving more than they ever imagined,” said Meehan. “This was a case in which people paid a price for their compassion. These defendants were responsible for a crisis from which the individual victims and the Red Cross are still trying to recover.”

This identity theft has had a significant negative impact on the ability of the Red Cross to conduct blood drives. Many companies have cancelled their scheduled blood drives because of this fraud and have refused to participate in future blood drives. The Red Cross has estimated its loss from this fraud to be at least \$455,000, as it has had to purchase blood from other parts of the country

¹ An Indictment or Information is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

to compensate for the cancelled blood drives here. Of course, this financial figure does not account for the permanent loss to the medical community of blood that is necessary for the sick and the injured.

In addition to this loss, the financial loss to retail establishments, credit card companies, and banks in this case is approximately \$268,762. Of this amount, approximately \$218,770, involved the use of Red Cross blood donor identities.

“Law enforcement can address identity theft by investigating and prosecuting these cases and holding the defendants accountable. The Red Cross, which brought this case to our attention, is responding by taking steps to protect donors from abuse in the future,” added Meehan.

Organizations and companies can prevent identity theft and reduce the harm it causes by taking the following steps:

- Screen employees carefully and repeat the process frequently.
- Limit which employees have access to sensitive information about clients of the company whether they are patients, customers, or students.
- Create an audit trail so that you can locate the source of the leak if identity thefts occur.
- If an identity theft occurs, contact law enforcement immediately. We can help you investigate and determine how the information was stolen. By taking this step, you might be able to limit your company’s liability in a future civil suit.

Since the U.S. Attorney’s Office, along with 15 other federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies, formed the Regional Identity Theft Working Group in 2002, 49 cases and 84 defendants have been indicted in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

INFORMATION REGARDING THE DEFENDANTS

NAME	ADDRESS	AGE
Harold J. McCoy, III	Federal Prison – Raybrook, New York	33
Karynn R. Long	Dayton, Ohio	36
Danielle Baker	Collingswood, NJ	33

McCoy and Long each face maximum sentences of 245 years imprisonment and a \$7.5 million fine. Baker faces a maximum sentence of 20 years imprisonment and a \$500,000 fine.

The case was investigated by the United States Postal Inspection Service and the Federal Bureau of Investigation and has been assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Louis D. Lappen for prosecution.

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